लिए महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास आरम्भ किए गए हैं। राष्ट्रीय सहकारी विकास निगम भी सहकारी क्षेत्र में प्रसंस्करण इकाइयां और शीतागार की सुविधाएं स्थापित करने के लिए फल तथा सब्जी विपणन सोसायटियों को सहायता प्रदान कर रहा है। इसके अलावा, राष्ट्रीय डेरी विकास बोर्ड अपने बिक्री केन्द्रों के माध्यम से उचित दरों पर सब्जियों तथा फल बेच रहा है, जिनमें सेब भी शामिल है। उत्पादकों तथा उपभोक्ताओं के हितों को ध्यान में रखते हुए, ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय विनियमित मण्डियों की स्थापना को बढ़ावा दे रहा है।

CSS Officers Empanelled for Joint Secretary

*327. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of CSS officers who have been empanelled for appointment to the post of Joint Secretary for three years or more as of now;

(b) whether the policy guidelines of Government are that CSS officers who have been empanelled for three years or more may be considered for mandatory posting; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken for mandatory posting of Officers referred to in para (a) above and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The number of officers of the Central Secretariat Service who have been for three years or more on the panel for appointment to the posts of Joint Secretary to Government is presently four.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The existing instructions provide that CSS officers having 2 years to superannuate, provided they are included in the Joint Secretaries' suitability list, may be considered for mandatory posting at Joint Secretary level either against a regular vacancy where the officer is working or by in-situ promotion by personal upgradation in the same Ministry. None of the 4 officers referred to in the reply to part (a) above is covered under this policy.

Response to Prime Minister's Letters on Nuclear Tests

*328. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had written letters to the leaders of several countries on India's stand on nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the response of the countries to whom letters had been addressed; and

(c) whether these countries have agreed to engage in constructive dialogue with a view to achieving the objective of time-bound golbal nuclear disarmament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The letters addressed by the Prime Minister to leaders of various countries were meant to explain the rationale behind our nuclear tests leading to a better appreciation of our security concerns.

(c) In recent weeks, a large number of NGOs, academics, public figures and experts in various countries have called for urgent and renewed attention to be paid to the objective of global nuclear disarmament. Eight-countries, namely Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden, Slovenia, South Africa have launched an initiative titled "Towards a nuclear-weapon free world: Need for a new agenda". India is the only nuclear weapon state to have responded to this initiative. India has also given a call for negotiations to start on a Nuclear

Weapons Convention with the goal of achieving a nuclear weapons free world. However, these initiatives have not yet led to a broad engagement enabling a dialogue on the objective of time bound global nuclear disarmament.

Oil Refineries in Orissa

*329. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up some oil refineries in Orissa is pending with Government; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Government has approved the proposal of IOC to set up a 9 MMTPA refinery at Abhayachandarpur near Paradip in Orissa in Joint Venture with Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crores including foreign exchange component of Rs. 2484 crores (May 1998 Prices). The IOC equity contribution in the project would be upto Rs. 860 crores.

Government has also given LOI's to M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited (now Ispat Industries Limited) to set up a 9 MMTPA refinery project and to M/s. Ashok Leyland to set up a 2 MMTPA lube refinery project in Orissa.

Monitoring Cell for MPLAD Fund

*330. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no monitoring Cell at the Centre to monitor the M.P. Local Area Development Fund;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what alternative arrangements Government have made or propose to make to monitor the M.P. Local Area Development Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) The Department of Programme Implementation has the nodal responsibility for the Scheme at the Centre including its monitoring. For effective implementation of the works under MPLADS each State Govt./UT Administration has to designate one nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and for coordination with the Department of Programme Implementation, Government of India. The heads of Districts are required to visit and inspect atleast 10% of these works every year. Likewise, Officers at the Subdivisional & Block level and of implementing agencies are also required to monitor implementation of these works through visits to work-sites.

Period for Restoration of Commuted Value of Pension

*331. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not accepted the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendation with regard to reducing the period for restoration of commuted value of pension from 15 to 12 years;

(b) whether raising the limit of commutation from 1/3rd to 40 per cent of the pension is one of the reasons for not reducing the said period;

(c) whether the benefit of increased limit of commutation is available only to post-1st January, 1996 retirees; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend the benefit to pre-1st January, 1996 retirees as well of reduce the period of restoration of commutation in their case; if not, the reasons therefor?